

Canadian Deep-Water Coral Program

- Fishing Industry (bycatch)
- Conservation Organizations (Ecology Action Centre)
 - Breeze et al. (1997)
 - First International Symposium, Halifax 2002
- Universities
 - McMaster (Risk and students)
 - Dalhousie (Scott, Metaxas, Willison and students)
 - University Quebec at Montreal (Hillaire-Marcel)
 - Memorial University (Edinger)
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (BIO)
 - Mortensens, Kenchington, Gordon



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DFO Deep-water Coral Program

- Start in 1997
- Responding to need for more information on deep-water corals for ocean management
- Funded by the Environmental Studies Research Fund (Oil and Gas Industry) and DFO
- Collaboration with NRCan, universities and industry



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Objectives

- Improve understanding of coral taxonomy, distribution and abundance
- Describe structure of coral aggregations and habitat characteristics
- Describe patterns of diversity and distribution of associated fauna, and the role of corals in their life histories
- Study coral biology (feeding, behaviour, genetics, etc.)



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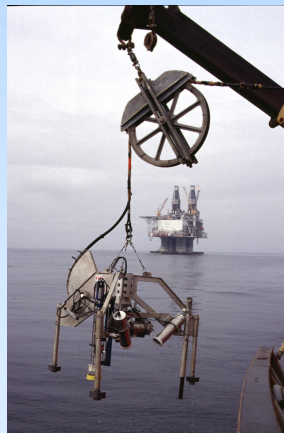
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Major Facilities for Fieldwork

Research vessels



Campod



Videograb



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Field Programs 2001-2002

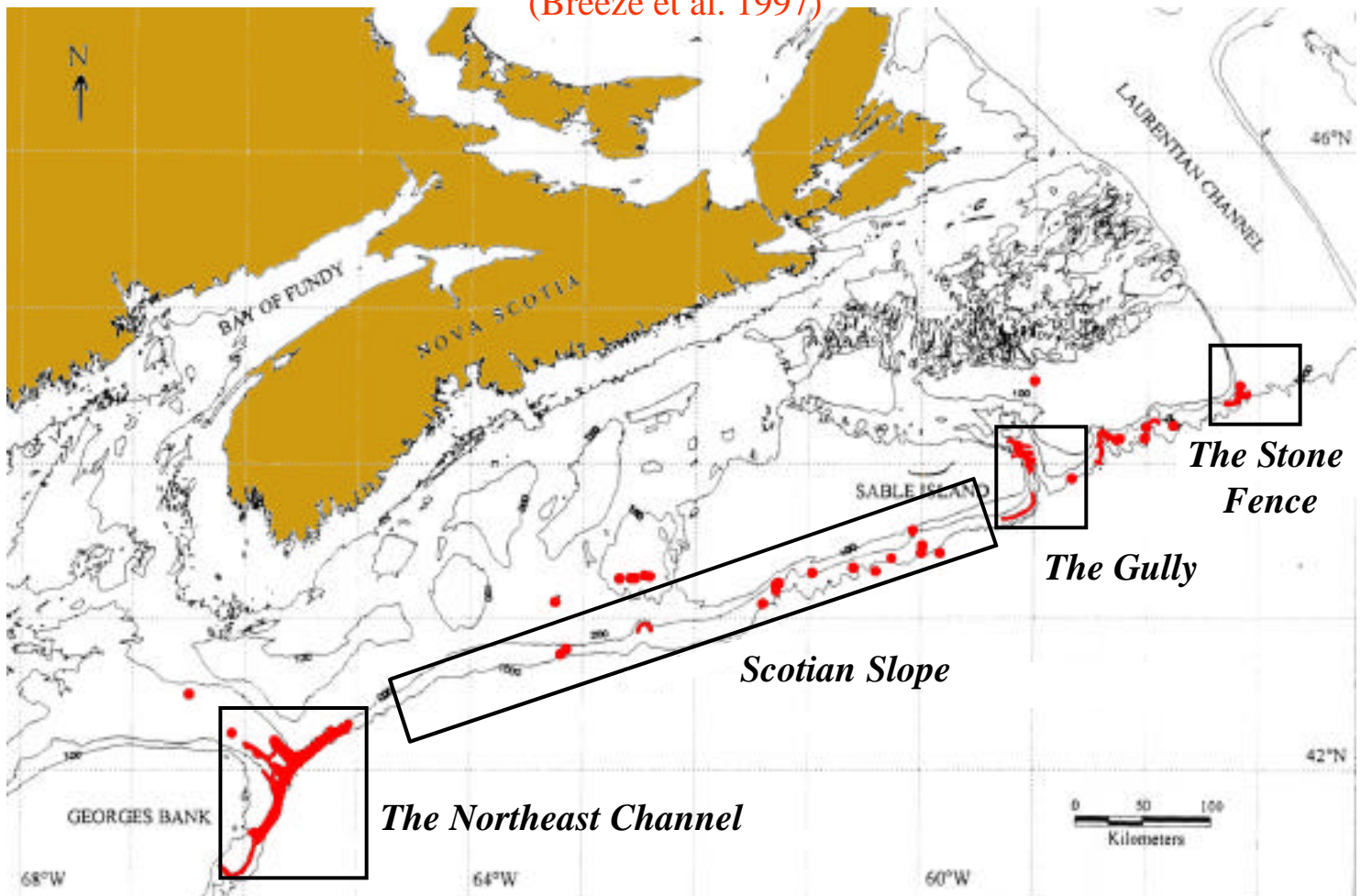
- Directed Coral Research Cruises
 - *ROPOS* (Aug. 2001): Organized by Dalhousie. Detailed study of the coral habitats in the Northeast Channel. Sampling of corals and associated fauna.
 - *Hudson* (Sept. 2001): Study of coral distribution in the Northeast Channel, along the Scotian Slope, and in the Gully
 - *Hudson* (Sept. 2002): Study of coral distribution in the Laurentian Channel, and along the southern edge of the Grand Banks.
 - Have video records from 151 stations (190-500 m)
- DFO Groundfish trawl surveys (all regions)



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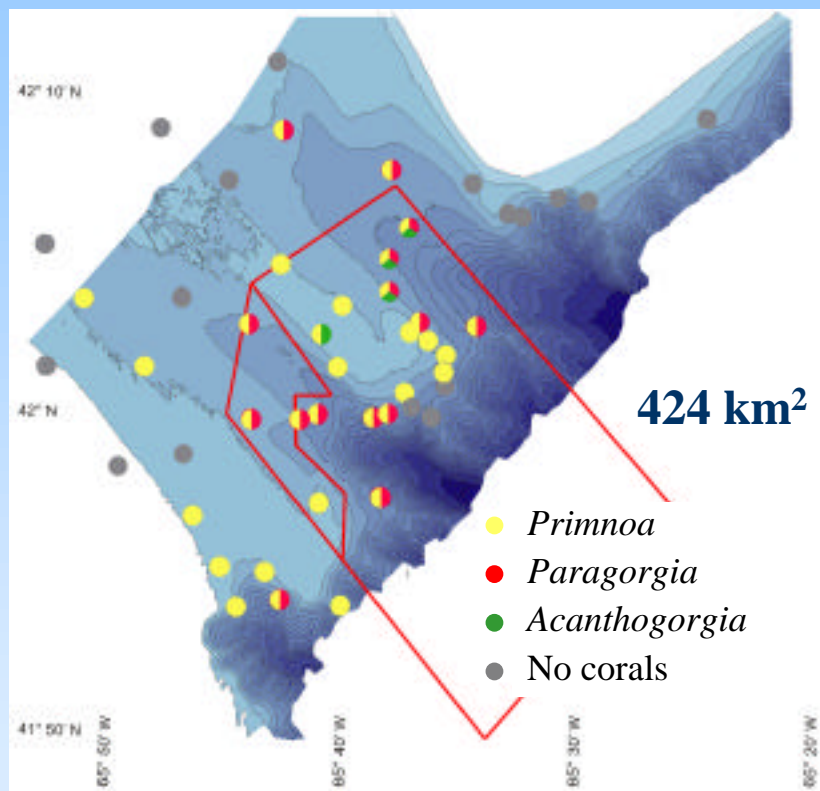
General Distribution of Corals off Nova Scotia

(Breeze et al. 1997)



The Northeast Channel Coral Conservation Area

2002



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Plans for 2003

- Continue to collect data from DFO groundfish trawl surveys and observer program
- Detailed analysis of video imagery collected from the slope, Gully, Stone Fence, Laurentian Channel and southern Grand Banks
- In collaboration with Dalhousie, deep-water ROV cruise to Northeast Channel, the Gully, the Stone Fence, and Orphan Knoll
- Laboratory studies with collected specimens



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